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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/674,898	09/30/2003	Larry Zurbrick	58305.US	5038

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EXAMINER

LEE, PATRICK J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2878

DATE MAILED: 03/08/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/674,898

Applicant(s)

ZURBRICK, LARRY

Examiner

Patrick J. Lee

Art Unit

2878

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 September 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 18 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 30 September 2003 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the detection of a transmitted beam as a secondary beam required in claim 16 must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the examiner does not accept the changes, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

2. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

Claim Objections

3. Claim 18 recites the limitation "the beam" in claim 17 – it is indefinite as to which beam (primary or secondary) is being referred. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US 5,736,735 to Hagiwara.

With respect to claims 1, 8-9, & 17, Hagiwara discloses an optical scanning device to inspect substrate (21) on stage (20). The system comprises light source (11) as a beam generator, stage (20) adapted to scan the substrate at a speed, light receiving elements (22A-22C) to detect reflected light (as a secondary beam) from the substrate (21), and a signal processing unit (30) to serve as a controller to determine presence/absence of a foreign matter along scanning line (25) (see column 7, lines 31-36). The light source (11) is adapted with an optical unit (43) to adjust the angle at which the beam produced by light source (11) is incident onto the substrate (20) as

illustrated in figures 4 & 7. Hagiwara does not explicitly disclose the use of an analog-to-digital converter, but such would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the teachings of Hagiwara accordingly in order to allow for accurate processing of the signal.

With respect to claims 2-3, 11, & 20, the variable angle does change, but the modified Hagiwara does not explicitly disclose the angle to be as claimed. However, it would be obvious to vary accordingly in order to ensure that the light beam is properly scanned for the appropriate situation.

With respect to claims 4, & 12, the speed is not explicitly disclosed at such, but to modify the teachings of the modified Hagiwara accordingly would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art in order to allow for accurate beam scanning.

With respect to claims 5, 15, & 19, the beam detected by light receiving elements (22A-22C) is a reflected beam.

With respect to claims 6-7, & 13-14, Hagiwara does not explicitly disclose the substrate being a semiconductor wafer or a mask for an IC layer (Hagiwara does disclose the substrate as a liquid crystal manufacturing mask in column 1, lines 13-14), but such would have been obvious to one as being a matter of intended use.

With respect to claim 16, the secondary beam as a transmitted beam is not disclosed, but it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to dispose the sensor on the other side of the substrate such that the substrate stage does not interfere. To do so would have been a mere matter of obvious design choice in order to determine transmissive properties of the substrate.

With respect to claim 18, the beam is not disclosed as a laser beam, but such would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art as lasers allow for accurate scanning of devices in inspection arrangements.

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

US 5,932,871 to Nakagawa et al and US 6,654,110 B3 to Yonezawa et al both disclose image pickup apparatuses to inspect a substrate.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Patrick J. Lee whose telephone number is (571) 272-2440. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 8:00 am to 5:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David P. Porta can be reached on (571) 272-2444. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

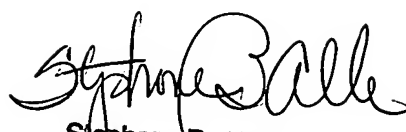
Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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Patrick J. Lee
Examiner
Art Unit 2878

PJL
March 2nd, 2005


Stephone B. Allen
Primary Examiner